

Application No. 10/533,819
Amendment under 37 CFR 1.111
Reply to Office Action dated December 13, 2007
March 13, 2008

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Please substitute the following claims for the pending claims with the same numbers respectively:

Claim 1 (Currently amended): An information processing device to which a plurality of information recording media can be simultaneously attached when said plurality of information recording media exist in which data stored in an information recording region is managed as a file by means of an individual file system, comprising:

a plurality of slots which are provided in a body of said information processing device to attach said respective information recording media;

a system memory which retains file system control information for recognizing individual file systems constructed in said plurality of information recording media and unifying and controlling the individual file systems into a single virtual file system;

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~~a file system controller which manages a priority order concerning utilization of said plurality of information recording media, and which refers to slot information and open information included in said file system control information in response to a request from an application program so as to access a file in a logical information recording region of said information~~
recording media refers to slot information including priority order retained in said file system control information showing a priority for use of a plurality of information recording media, and open information showing information on opened files as well as flags for files having the same name, and which sets said flags and accesses a file in a logical information recording region of said information recording media based on said priority order when files having the same name exist in said plurality of information media; and

an access controller which accesses a slot and an address designated by said file system controller, and acquires data of a file.

Claim 2 (Original): The information processing device according to claim 1, wherein

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said file system controller once initializes said file system control information in said system memory where a state is initially set for said application program in a manner that said information recording media are not attached and that all of the files are not open, when said information processing device is turned on.

Claim 3 (Original): The information processing device according to claim 1, wherein

said file system controller sets the use priority order of said slots in advance for the respective slots when said information processing device is turned on.

Claim 4 (Original): The information processing device according to claim 1, wherein

said file system controller creates slot information in reference to data recorded on a management information region of said information recording media and data in a part of a data region and constructs a part of said file system control information when said information recording medium is attached to any of said plurality of slots.

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Claim 5 (Original): The information processing device
according to claim 1, wherein

when opening a specific file from said information recording
medium, said file system controller refers to said slot
information included in said file system control information,
accesses all of the information recording media attached to the
slots in an order based on said priority order included in said
file system control information, confirms whether or not a file
designated by an application exists, creates open information
when a designated file is initially discovered, registers a flag
that indicates whether or not a file having the same name exists
with file information when the file having the same name exists
in another information recording medium, and creates a file
handle which is related to said open information.

Claim 6 (Original): The information processing device
according to claim 1, wherein

when reading out data of a specific file from said
information recording medium, said file system controller refers
to said open information by using a file handle acquired at the

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time of file opening from said application, determines which slot information is to be utilized, and gives the obtained slot number to said access controller in order to read out file data required for said application from a specific information recording medium.

Claim 7 (Original): The information processing device according to claim 1, wherein

when recording file data on said information recording medium, said file system controller refers to said open information by using a file handle acquired at the time of file opening from said application, determines which slot information is to be utilized, and gives the obtained slot number to said access controller in order to record file data produced by said application on a specific information recording medium, and updates the slot information of the file system control information retained by said system memory.

Claim 8 (Original): The information processing device according to claim 1, wherein

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when closing a specific file from said information recording medium, said file system controller refers to said open information by using a file handle acquired at the time of file opening from said application, determines a slot number that is being utilized, and gives the obtained slot number to said access controller in order to record management information in a management information region of said specific information recording medium, and initializes the open information of the file.

Claim 9 (Currently amended): A file management method for managing data stored in respective information recording regions within a plurality of information recording media by means of a file system controller and an access controller of an information processing device, wherein said method comprising the steps of:

setting a utilization priority order for a plurality of slots to which said information recording media are attached,

creating slot information in reference to data in a management information region recorded in [[an]] one said information recording medium and data in a part of a data region when said information recording media are attached to any of said

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plurality of slots, and producing a part of file system control information through said file system controller,

upon opening a specific file from an information recording medium, referring to said slot information included in said file system control information and said priority order included in said file system control information, accessing all of the information recording media attached to the slots, confirming whether or not a file that is designated by an application exists, creating open information when a designated file exists, registering a flag that indicates whether or not a file having the same name exists with file information, and thereby, producing the rest of said file system control information, and thus constructing a unified file system where individual systems in said plurality of information recording media are unified through said file system controller,

upon reading out data of a specific file from said information recording medium, referring to open information of said file system control information by using a file handle acquired at the time of file opening from said application, determining which slot information is to be utilized, and giving the obtained slot number to said access controller, and thereby

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reading out file data required for said application from a specific information recording medium through said file system controller, and

upon recording file data on said information recording medium, referring to said file system control information by using a file handle acquired at the time of file opening from said application determining which slot information is to be utilized, and giving the obtained slot number to said access controller, and thereby recording file data produced by said application in a specific information recording medium, and updating slot information of said file system control information through said file system controller.

Claim 10 (Original): The file management method according to claim 9, wherein

said plurality of information recording media are all managed by the same type of a file system.

Claim 11 (Original): The file management method according to claim 9, wherein

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said plurality of information recording media are managed by different types of file systems.

Claim 12 (Original): The file management method according to claim 9, wherein

said file system controller uniquely specifies a file to be accessed on the basis of said priority order from among files having the same name that exist in said plurality of information recording media.

Claim 13 (Original): The file management method according to claim 9, wherein

said file system controller confirms the existence of files having the same name in said plurality of information recording media, and gives the result to said application program.

Claim 14 (Original): The file management method according to claim 9, wherein

said file system controller confirms the existence of files having the same name in said plurality of information recording media, and gives the result to said application program in

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response to a request from said application program at an
arbitrary time point.